

WELCOME

Welcome to:

**Square Peg Kids
in Round Hole
Families & Facilities:**
Let's Stop the Insanity

Pat ☺'Brien

You Gotta Believe!

ygbpat@msn.com

1-800-601-1779

www.yougottabelieve.org

1728 Mermaid Avenue

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224

Welcome to:

**The Saving F.A.C.E.
Approach to Finding
Permanent Homes for
Every Teen in Our Care
Whose Goal It Is To
Be Discharged To No One
But Him or Her Self.**

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MISCELLANEOUS



**Need
Permanent
Parents**

**SQUARE
PEG
TEENS**



**Provide
Temporary
Family &
Facility
Foster Care**

**ROUND
HOLE
PROGRAMS**

Round Hole (Temporary) Families & Facilities

- 1) Residential Treatment Schools & Centers
- 2) Traditionally prepared foster parents
- 3) Group Homes
- 4) Therapeutic/Treatment foster homes
- 5) Hospitals, Juvenile Justice, Drug Treatment Residential Settings.

*The absence
of an unconditionally
committed parent
in the life of a child
cannot be treated by
medication or therapy.*

Kevin Campbell

www.yougottabelieve.org

or

www.bcat.tv/bcat

Watch every

**Thursday at noon & 8pm
(Eastern Time)**

**Click on Television #2 under words
“BCAT Live Stream”**

The Adopting Teens & Tweens Radio Forum

Sundays from 8-9pm (ET)

Log on to

www.am1240wgbb.com

SURVEY

Are You Being Called To Serve a Child?

A Self-Assessment Survey

Learn what your greatest gift is in your call to serve children. Follow directions below to assess which activity, skill, decision, or role in life is your greatest attribute in your ability to be of service to a child. Whatever box your finger ultimately lands on will be the area where you can offer a child your greatest gift. Keep your mind open, suspend judgment and enjoy this self-assessment and you will learn a great deal about your greatest strength as it relates to helping a child.

Teach	Advocate	Mentor	Coach
Befriend	Act Silly& Playful	Listen	Adopt A Teen
Show Empathy	Enhance Self- Esteem	Unconditional Commitment is love	Prevent Homelessness

1. Place your finger on any **gray or shaded** box
2. Move your finger **left or right** to the nearest **white** box
3. Move your finger **up or down** to the nearest **gray or shaded** box
4. Move your finger **diagonally** to the nearest **white** box
5. Move your finger **left or right** to the nearest **gray** box
6. Now, remember your greatest strength to serve a child (which is the box your finger is on right now). Concentrate on the strength in that box.

Please Turn This Sheet Over!

U-D (Up-Down)

D (Deficit)

D (Disorder)

L-R **(Left-Right)**

D **(Deficit)**

D **(Disorder)**

D (Diagonal)

D (Deficit)

D (Disorder)

Congratulations!

Your finger landed on

Adopt-a-Teen

So, come on down to You Gotta Believe's 10 week Adopting Older Kids And Youth (A-OKAY) parent preparation class and learn about how adopting a teen can become your greatest calling in service to a child.

For instance, when you learn about adopting teens you will learn that your new *role* in life becomes that of a:

TEACHER ADVOCATE MENTOR COACH FRIEND

to a child through the final stages of his or her childhood and throughout his or her young adult and adult life as well.

The A-OKAY class will also show you how to create a bond with your new child through teaching and/or enhancing your wonderful *skills* to:

ACT SILLY & PLAYFUL, LISTEN, SHOW EMPATHY, ENHANCE SELF-ESTEEM.

Combine your newfound *roles* and *skills* with:

UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT

(Which we define as your decision to love)

And you will go a long way in helping to:

PREVENT A CHILD'S HOMELESSNESS

upon discharge from the foster care system. If all of us partners in the child welfare system do not attempt to get teens into permanent families before they are discharged from foster care, they run a high risk of becoming homeless upon discharge from care.

To learn more about preventing homelessness by adopting teens please contact 718-372-3003 or 800-601-1779 to find out when our next A-OKAY class is being held in a neighborhood near you. We are currently offering orientations every Monday night at 6pm in Yonkers, Tuesday night at 6pm in Ronkonkoma, Wednesday night at 6pm in Coney Island, Thursday night at 6pm in Harlem and Staten Island, Saturday morning at 10am in East New York, and Sunday afternoon at 4pm in Jamaica, Queens.

You can also listen to our live radio call-in show "The Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Radio Forum" every Sunday evening from 8-9pm (Eastern Time) by logging on to www.am1240wgbb.com. And/or you can watch a live stream of our weekly cable access television show entitled "The Adopting Teens & 'Tweens Show" every Thursday at 12 noon and 8pm (Eastern Time) by logging on to www.bcat.tv/bcat, and then click the television with the #2 inside it under the words "BCAT Live Stream." Our e-mail ygbpat@msn.com. Our address is You Gotta Believe 1728 Mermaid Avenue (@19th Street), Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY 11224. Our website: www.yougottabelieve.org.

HOMELESS

NYC Homeless Statistics

- **60%** of homeless living in NYC municipal shelters grew up in foster care as children.
- **50%** of youth surveyed in NYC study of runaway and homeless youth programs reported growing up in foster care.
- **70%** of youth residing in New York City's Covenant House reported having been in foster care: 27% with a foster parent, 43% in foster group homes.

Nationwide Homeless Statistics

- **46%** - almost half – of all youth in shelters across NJ had been in DYFS's care the previous year before arriving in the shelter.
- **56%** of all young adults accessing federally funded youth shelters in 1997 had previously been in foster care.

Nationwide Homeless Statistics (cont.)

- **49%** of youth in a national survey of runaway and homeless youth shelters conducted by NASW spent time in out-of-home care *in the previous year alone*; 38% in foster care, 11% in another shelter.
- **61%** of homeless youth under 20 years of age reported having been placed in foster care, group home or institution before the age of 18.

The Next Generation

- **27%** of the homeless who did not grow up in foster care have children living in foster care. National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **77%** of former foster children who are homeless have children living in foster care.
- **29%** of NYC homeless parents who **did not** have a history of foster care had active cases with ACS. Institute for Children & Poverty survey of nearly 400 homeless parents in NYC.
- **73%** of NYC homeless families who **did** have history of foster care had active ACS cases.

What is the cause of homelessness?

Common Wisdom

1. Poverty
2. Unemployment
3. Addiction
4. Mental Illness

Real Reason

- Lack of any functional human relationships

Independent Living

The Major Culprit?

A Child Welfare Permanency Planning Goal

EMANCIPATION

(1 word)

INDEPENDENT LIVING

(2 words)

ANOTHER PLANNED
PERMANENT LIVING
ARRANGEMENT

(5 words)

*The Effect of All Three:
Discharging a youth to no one but
him or herself.*

A nother

P lanned

P ermanent

L iving

A rrangement

**That includes
a significant connection
to an adult willing to be
a permanency resource
for the child.**

Some
Other
Planned
Permanent
Living
Arrangement

**Which May
Include a
Residential
Educational
Program.**

SECTION 422

of the Social Security Act

- **Pre-July 25, 2006**
- Each plan for child welfare services under this subpart shall
- 10) provide assurances that the State
- B) is operating, to the satisfaction of the Secretary
- iii) a service program designed to help children
- when safe and appropriate, return to families which they have been removed; or
- be placed for adoption, with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be appropriate for a child, in **some other planned, permanent living arrangement.**

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- iii) a service program designed to help children
- when safe and appropriate, return to families which they have been removed; or
- be placed for adoption, with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be appropriate for a child, **in some other planned, permanent living arrangement *which may include a residential education program.***

So The Real Acronym Is

SOPPLA

WMI

A-REP

Youth in Care Vs Youth Emancipation

- In 1999 there were 567,000 youth in foster care and
- 18,968 youth were discharged to no body but themselves.
- In 2009 there were 423,773 or 143,000 **fewer** youth in F.C. &
- 29,471, or over 10,500 **more** youth were discharged to no body but themselves

• **Source:** Based on data AFCARS Report #12, AFCARS Report #16 and unpublished AFCARS data reported by states as of September 2010 and received from HHS, ACF, ACYF, Children's Bureau

Why is this absurd?

- Where do you think most 22-year old college graduates, who come from fairly well-off one-or two-parent families, go after graduating with a 4 year bachelor's degree?
 - o **26:** The average age that a young adult raised in his or her own family leaves their home of origin to set up a “real” home.
 - o I did not get discharged to Independent Living until I was 43 years old and there was no time before that that this was even a practical consideration for me.

Harvard University Press

Published a book by Christopher Jencks simply entitled **The Homeless**, which reported nothing about the foster care system's contribution to creating half the homelessness in our culture, but nonetheless concluded the following:

“When unmarried adults get into economic trouble, parents are usually their first line of defense against homelessness. 5.6 million unmarried working age adults had incomes below \$2,500. 42% of them lived with their parents, compared to only 9% of the unmarried adults with incomes above \$30,000. The contrast leaves little doubt that the main reason unmarried adults live with their parents is economic. It also shows how important parents are in keeping young adults off the street, especially today when the income differential between the young and their elders is widening.”

Courtney/Wisconsin Outcome Study

12-18 months after leaving care

50%

Were working at slightly less than what a full-time worker made.

57%

Of them were working at the time of discharge from foster care.

37%

Experienced situations seriously dangerous.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Serious Physical Victimization*	25%	15%
Sexually Assaulted		11%
Incarcerated	27%	10%

*"Serious Physical Victimization" involved being "beat up," "choked, strangled or smothered," "attacked with a weapon," or "tied up, held down or blindfolded" against their will. Also, 10% of the females in the study were forced to perform oral or anal sex against their will.

Courtney/Wisconsin Outcome Study (cont.)

12-18 months after leaving care

“Policy makers interested in crime prevention would be hard pressed to find a group at higher risk of incarceration than the males in our sample.”

“Too large a group encountered housing instability or even homelessness and too many were victims of violence.”

WESTAT, Inc.

1,644 Phase I - Interviewed at Discharge

810 Phase II - Interviewed 2.5 - 4 years later

49%

Were working, with a median salary of \$205. This was less money than a full-time job at the minimum wage that year.

38%

Had a job for 1 year.

60%

Of the females gave birth.

	<u>Young Mothers</u>	<u>Not Young Mothers</u>
Finished High School	47%	67%
More School	34%	55%
Cost to the Community	61%	22%

Commitment

The Citizen's Committee for Children conducted a survey by looking at the discharge plans of about 200 young people with goals of Independent Living about to be discharged from care. They found:

49% of these young people with the goal of Independent Living nearing their discharges dates had no plan in record indicating what their living arrangement would be upon discharge. This was true for:

58% of the males.

65% of the youths living in traditionally prepared foster homes.

Only 13% of those foster parents were identified as potential resources.

Hurt

Abandon

Reject

Traumatize

Victimimize

Abused

Neglect

A PARENT

*At least one adult
who makes a
unilateral decision
to unconditionally
commit to a child
for a lifetime.*

A PARENT

(who happens to be doing fostering)

*At least one adult
who makes a
unilateral decision
to unconditionally
commit to a child's
permanency future.*

The Foster Parent **Commitment Test**

- **Question #1:** *What can Johnny do to stop being a member of your family?*
- **Question #2:** *Where will Johnny live when he ages out of the foster care system?*

Family Commitment Statement

I, _____, accept the fundamental truth
- that all children require and deserve a home and family with
parent(s) unconditionally committed to their physical and emotional
well-being for a lifetime.

I understand and fully support the full nature of family
building as taught during the You Gotta Believe! parent preparation
classes and am prepared to exhaust all efforts to support and defend
my new family.

I recognize and accept parenting as a unilateral decision
made by me, solely on my decision to parent

_____.

I agree to utilize the staff and families of You Gotta
Believe! for support and guidance when difficulties arise.

I pledge to nurture my faith in the rightness of my
decision by opening myself to new experiences and opportunities
for personal growth.

I declare that the child: _____
permanently placed with my family on _____ is from
this time forward a full fledged member of the _____
family. From this day forward I claim _____ to be my
child and will do whatever is necessary to raise him/her to
adulthood successfully.

Signature of Parent

Date

Witness

Date

Family Commitment Statement

We, _____, accept the fundamental truth - that all children require and deserve a home and family with parent(s) unconditionally committed to their physical and emotional well-being for a lifetime.

We understand and fully support the full nature of family building as taught during the You Gotta Believe! parent preparation classes and are prepared to exhaust all efforts to support and defend our new family.

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Signature of Parent

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

Witness

Date

TEEN RESISTANCE

When adults give teens the power to say “no” to adoption, what the teen hears:

- “You are not loveable.”
- “No one would want you anyway.”
- “There is no hope for your future.”
- “You are not important enough for me to exert any energy in trying to find you a family.”

Would you give this same teen the option to decline to have health insurance, or drop out of school?

When a teen says “no” to adoption, what (s)he may be really saying is:

- “Adoption is for babies; I’m not a baby.”
- “I am ready for independence; I don’t need any more adults telling me what to do.”
- “I don’t want to be hurt again.”
- “I don’t want to change my name.”
- “I don’t want to lose my connections to my birth family, foster families, etc.”
- “I’m scared to death of more rejection.”

What can 14-year olds do in our society, anyway?

- Can they sign a legally binding contract?
- Can they work at any job, legally, during the school year?
- Can they drop out of school?
- Can they serve their country in a time of war?
- Can they vote?
- Can they go to a local deli and buy beer?
- Can they go to a local news stand and buy cigarettes?
- Can they see a Rated R movie without an adult present?
- Can they drive?

Questions you can ask to identify “now here” families in your teen’s life.

1. Where do you feel most comfortable?
2. With what person or people do you feel the most comfortable?
3. Describe the place you lived, other than your birth family, where you felt most at home. Who lived there and why did it feel like home?
4. Who do you call for advice or to just talk?
5. Who praises you and makes you feel good about yourself?
6. Who believes in you?
7. Who do you trust?
8. Who would you call if you were in trouble?
9. If you could choose where you were going to live, where would that be and why?
 - 1st choice
 - 2nd choice
 - 3rd choice

YGB PURPOSE

BY-LAWS

You Gotta Believe!

The Older Child Adoption & Permanency Movement, Inc.

Article II - Purpose:

*The **only** purpose of this corporation is to work toward the identification, for every older foster child who needs one, of at least one parent who will unconditionally commit to and claim the older foster child as his/her, or their own, by providing a permanent loving home, family, and relationship to that child before the child ages out of the foster care system.*

Types of Families Needed **For Youth in Foster Care**

- 1) Adoptive Families (Legally Adopting the Youth or Child)
- 2) APPLA Permanency Families (Morally Adopting the Youth)
- 3) Therapeutic Permanency Families
- 4) Maternity Permanency Families
- 5) Adult Or Institutional Custodial Care Permanency Families

*The absence of an
unconditionally
committed parent
in the life of a child
cannot be treated by
medication or therapy.*

Kevin Campbell

A working definition of the word

FAMILY

Is often a place,
but always a safety net
with at least one parent,
that provides a youth
and/or young adult
with the opportunity to
not succeed
(or perhaps even fail)
until he or she
can succeed.

You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc.
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ygbpat@msn.com

www.yougottabelieve.org

Log on our website to learn about our weekly radio & TV broadcasts.

ISNOWHERE

**A
FAMILY
IS NOWHERE**

**A
FAMILY
IS
NO
WHERE**

**A
FAMILY
IS
NOW
HERE**

**A
FAMILY
I
SNOW
HERE**

OBSTACLE

**If you think you can,
you can;**

**If you think you can't,
you can't;**

You're always right!

**If you believe a family is now here,
A family is now here;**

**If you believe a family is no where,
A family is no where;**

You will always be right!

I no longer believe there is a family for every child!

❖ In a city/tri-state area with
12 MILLION people

❖ A state with
19 MILLION people

❖ A country with
300 MILLION people

❖ And a world with
4 BILLION people...

There is not a family
for every child,
but an infinite # of families.

**There is not a family
for every child,
but an infinite # of families.**

**ONCE YOU BELIEVE,
75%
of the job of recruitment is done.**

**Now for the easy part!
How can you find the families?**

A MIRACLE

A miracle is just a shift in
perception;

It is a shift in how we perceive
a situation.

Our greatest tool for
changing the world is
our capacity to
change our mind
about the world.”

--Marianne Williamson
A Return To Love

**WHEN YOU
CHANGE THE WAY
YOU LOOK AT
THINGS,**

**THE THINGS
YOU LOOK AT
CHANGE.**

**The
Saving
F.A.C.E.
Approach to
Finding
Permanent
Homes
for Teens**

F riends

A quaintances

C ommunity

E ducation

97% of 302 17-year old youth “preparing” to emancipate from long term foster care in Washington State reported having a close positive relationship with at least one adult.

WHERE ARE THE FAMILIES?

“There is considerable support for the notion that most of us *{in society in general}* have attachment problems to some degree” but that “we know that an individual who truly has no attachments does not survive.”

--Melanie Tem.

LIFE CYCLE

RECRUITMENT

- 1) Can you adopt? If not, please lead, follow, or get out of the way!
- 2) **The Child's Life Cycle**

WE HAVE PLACED KIDS IN

CONGREGATE CARE WITH THEIR:

Social Worker

Child Care Staff

Administrative Staff

School Teachers & Other School Personnel

Therapist

Volunteers & Mentors

AWOL Resources

Unexplored Maternal Relatives

Unexplored Paternal Relatives

(Such As Cousin who was 17 at placement of 3 year old but who is now 28 for placement of 14 year old.)

Best Friends Mother

People Met at Birthparent's Funeral

God Parents

LIFE CYCLE **RECRUITMENT** (cont.)

WE HAVE PLACED KIDS FROM FOSTER **HOMES WITH THEIR:**

Foster Parent's Neighbors

Foster Parent's Friends

Foster Parent's Family Members

Foster Parent's Pastor

Members in Foster Parent's Church

Child's Best Friend's Mother

Social Work & Other Agency Staff

Employer's or Boss's

Administrative Staff

Law Guardian/CASA Worker

Clergy/Chaplin

Teachers & Other School Personnel such as:

School Crossing Guard

Cafeteria Staff

Teacher's Aide

**Unexplored Maternal & Paternal Relatives such as older
sibs, cousins, grandparents, aunts, birthparents.**

God Parents

LIFE CYCLE

RECRUITMENT (cont.)

3) How to approach potential life cycle resources:

- Never ask, “will you adopt John?”
- Always ask if they would consider learning more about having John come to live with them permanently by selling them on a learning experience, such as asking them to take your parent preparation or training classes.
- Always be aware most people have no idea that:
 - The child is available;
 - They are eligible to adopt (singles, one-bedrooms, etc.);
 - They can afford to adopt;
 - There is pre-placement & post-placement support available.
- Staff adopting kids in its care.

One-to-One

One-to-One Personal Contact

“What is clear from the results is that the vast majority of parents come to be special needs adoptive parents because they have had some personal contact with an agency staff member or another adoptive parent. Advertising and the media play only a small role in uniting parents and children... It seems that, while increasing public awareness of the need for adoptive parents through the media might be beneficial, in effect it is the one-to-one personal contact with individuals that is most influential in securing the adoptive home for the child.”

Quote taken from: Avery, Rosemary J and Daniel, M. Mont “Special Needs Adoption In New York State: Final Report on Adoptive Parent Survey” October 1994. Research Funded by the Children’s Bureau. Contract No. 90CW1012

Potential One-to-One **Personal Contact Approaches**

- Provide Service With Recruitment
- Supermarket - Faster Lines
- Parking Meters - Prevent Ticket
- Doorknob Campaign - Suspension of Parking Rules
- Garbage Can Approach - Litter
- Waiting Person Campaign
 - Post Office
 - Laundromats
 - Beauty Parlors
 - Bus & Subway Stops
 - Equate light pain of waiting on a line with heavy pain of waiting for a family.
- Liken approach to a political campaign

Other Recruitment

Suggestions & Ideas

- 1) **Self Assessment**: Are your current families bringing in needed families? If not, why?
- 2) **Training as Recruitment**: Is your training the core part of your recruitment strategy?
- 3) **“The Recruiter”**: Does your recruitment effort rely on just one person?
 - How are recruitment calls handled?
 - Can you put together a one-to-one personal contact recruitment committee?
 - Plan to take a recruitment budget line and spread it out so that your agency can:
 - o Have an army of recruiters rather than just one.
 - o Pay the army a small stipend where you can have over a dozen folks doing recruitment.
 - o 2.5 FTE for the price of 1 FTE spread out over 10-12 recruiters. Including bonuses.

END

“Think about this. In 1865 the federal government of the country freed 4 million Blacks. Without a dime, with no property, nearly all illiterate, they were let loose upon the land to wander. That’s what begins the aftermath of slavery.”

Harper’s Magazine Forum, Page 38, November 2000

And here it is. 145 years later. And we do the exact same thing to tens of thousands of young adult and/or teen children, (disproportionately African-American, Latino and Native) in our care every year.

We discharge them without a dime in their pockets, without any property, and rarely with a high school diploma so they might as well be illiterate. And without that unconditionally committed permanent parent in their corner they are simply being

“Let loose upon our land to wander.”

We can absolutely do better for each and every kid in our care.

A Hundred Years From Now

*...it will not matter what my bank
account was, the sort of house I
lived in, or the kind of car I
drove...*

*...but the world may be different
because I was important in the
life of a
CHILD.*



**Be the Change You
Want to See in the
World.**

ygbpat@msn.com

1-800-601-1779

OTHER WORDS FOR PERMANENCY – N☺T

- **1) Mentor**
- **2) Connection or Significant Connection**
- **3) Volunteer or Paid Volunteer**
- **4) Permanency Resource**
- **5) Shared Parenting**
- **6) Bridge Parenting**
- **7) Permanent Foster Care**
- **8) Independent Living**
- **9) Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement – Includes Residential Schools.**

WHEN YOU TAKE THE PARENT OUT OF PERMANENT YOU ARE LEFT WITH M.N.E. MEANING

- 1) Mostly Not Enough vs. The Foundation of family that springboards every child's future.
- 2) Commitment Light vs Unconditional Commitment
- 3) Round Hole (Temporary) vs. Square Peg (Permanent)
- 4) "In Lieu Of" Family or "Family Like" vs. Real Family
- 5) Second Best vs. The Only Answer
- 6) Waffler Parent vs Real Parent

**We've all heard the
OLD WISE SAYING**

- LET'S NOT
MAKE THE
PERFECT
THE ENEMY
OF THE
GOOD.**

A PLAY ON AN OLD WISE SAYING

- **LET'S NOT
MAKE THE
GOOD THE
ENEMY OF THE
PURSUIT OF
PERFECTION**

ygbpat@msn.com

1-800-601-1779

- **Man's Mind,
Once Stretched
by a New Idea,
Never Regains
its Original
Dimensions**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

General Recruitment Vs Recruiting People Known To Youth

	% HS plus Entrants Placement	# of Completed Training	HS Done	Teen Placed
TOTAL (10.4%)	1143 63%	449 (39%)	190(17%)	120
Did not (4%) Know Teen	987 35% (86%)	324 (33%)	106 (11%)	37
Did Know (53%) The Teen	154 99% (14%)	125 (81%)	84(54%)	83

*This information taken from article "An Examination of Theory and Promising Practice for Achieving
Permanency For Teens Before They Age Out of*

Foster Care by Rosemary J. Avery Published in Children and Youth Services Review 32 (2010) Page 406.